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PHOTOGRAPHS

BY

G. W. WILSON.

BRAEMAR.



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PHOTOGRAPHS
OF
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH
SCENERY.

BY
G. W. WILSON.

BRAEMAR.
12 VIEWS.

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MILLS AT CASTLETON OF BRAEMAR.

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THE antique village of Castleton stands upon a piece of irregular ground, where the turbulent stream of the Cluny clatters down to join the Dee. The name Castleton is new, but the village is of ancient date, so early, that the site of a castle, belonging to Malcolm Canmore, is still pointed out on a rock on the east bank of the Cluny. Looking down upon this little stream is Craig-Coynach Hill, so called because King Kenneth, as is said, used here to sit and view his hounds in the chase. At a later period it was here where the Earl of Mar raised the standard of the Pretender in 1715, which gave rise to the popular rhyme—

“ The Standard’s on the Braes o’ Mar,
Its ribbons streaming rarely ;
The gathering pipes on Lochnagar,
They’re sounding lang and rarely.”



MILL ON THE CLUNY.

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THIS view is taken from the east bank of the Cluny, and looks towards the Hill of Morrone. From the summit of this hill is obtained the finest view of mountain scenery to be seen in the kingdom.

“ It seems a perfect wilderness of mountain piled above mountain—a chaos of huge precipices, and deep corries, and bleached boulders—presenting a sublime picture of solitary grandeur, uninhabited and uninhabitable by man.” Among the peaks and ranges to be seen may be distinguished Ben-muich-dhui, Braeriach, Cairntoul, Cairngorum, Ben-a-bourd, and Ben-A’an.

Upon the Hill of Morrone is the farm of Tomantoul, which is said to be the highest cultivated land in Scotland, being about 1500 feet above the level of the sea.



BRIDGE ON THE CLUNY.

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THE CLUNY may be considered the junction of two waters —the Baddoch and the Callater—which issue respectively from Lochs Vrotachan and Callater. Its bed is covered with stones, and sometimes paved with solid rock, but only where our view represents it are its banks of great height.

Here for many centuries have been standing the ruins of the Castle of Kindrochet, where dwelt Malcolm Canmore with his queen and courtiers. It was also for many ages the Royal hunting seat of Scotland's Kings, and seems to have been a very extensive building. It contains vaults and surrounding rooms which are entirely shut up against any prying inroads from a superstitious dread of some magical disease being sealed up in the interior. Tradition states that the Castle was battered down with cannon from Dunkeld, planted on Morrone Hill, in consequence of a deadly plague raging in the Royal Palace, still known in local phraseology as the "Galar Mhor," or the Great Disease.



CRAIG CLUNY.

CRAIG CLUNY.

AFTER crossing the Bridge of Invercauld on the north side, there rises to the view of the traveller a most stately and abrupt rock, from the bottom of the glen, clothed with pine for a considerable way up, and rearing a short granite beak that nearly projects across the road. This is Craig Cluny. It is sometimes called the Charter Chest from a tradition that, in times of trouble and danger, the Laird of Invercauld used to hide that piece of furniture within a rock about the middle of the Craig.

It is also related that, after the battle of Culloden, Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld hid himself in a cave, far up this rock, for the space of ten months, and that, when lying there in the silence of the night, he heard the sounds of merriment which King George's soldiers were making in his own house.



BRAEMAR CASTLE.

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BRAEMAR CASTLE is situated on a noble eminence commanding an extensive prospect up and down the princely valley of the Dee.

It is by no means an ancient structure, having only been built about 1720 to overawe the inhabitants of the district after the rebellion of 1715.

It belongs to the Farquharson's of Invercauld, and has been several times hired by Government for the uses of a garrison. It is now untenanted, and its picturesque appearance is much destroyed since the corner turrets were demolished and the present crinolated work placed instead. On a green slope in front of the Castle, the Braemar Gathering takes place annually—a meeting of the neighbouring clans for a friendly bout at leaping, dancing, and tossing the caber ; and since the Court came to Deeside, the games are often graced by the presence of some of the members of the Royal Family.



THE UPPER FALLS OF THE GARR-VALT.

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THE Falls of Garr-valt are five miles east on the declivity of the Pine Forest of Ballochbuie. They are approached by passing Braemar Castle on the left, and turning off at the Bridge of Invercauld by the road to the right, which forms one of the new drives constructed along the natural terraces of the forest banks.

A most ingenious and very curious wooden bridge has been constructed and cast over the Falls, which conducts to a favourite point for viewing the rushing water, with its rocks and trees. From a point a little to the east of the bridge there is also a splendid view looking up the valley of the Dee towards the mountains of Ben-a-bourd and Ben A'an. This view has often been pronounced to be the beau-ideal of a highland landscape.



THE LOWER FALLS OF THE GARR-VALT.

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THE GARR-VALT water comes foaming and raging through the rocks in a manner almost beyond description. It then rolls over several banks of considerable height, until, having collected in one mass, it rushes with great force over a large rock into a pool of considerable depth, producing a noise somewhat like distant thunder.

The bed of the torrent is composed of a strange mass of boulders of all shapes and sizes, quite unlike any other stream in the district, but in beautiful keeping with the gnarled pines which overhang the chasm.



THE LINN OF CORRYMULZIE.

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THIS beautiful Fall is three miles westward from Castle-ton by the road leading to Ben-muich-dhui. The ravine is a deep gash in the rock, narrow and precipitous, but having all its asperities softened off by the profusion of birches and creeping plants with which it is matted.

The Fall slides down pearly white through a winding slit in the rock, where its gentle surface is in close companionship with the tender wild flowers that are kept in eternal green by its spray.

Close by the Linn is the Highland Residence of the Right Honourable the Earl of Fife, who usually spends the autumn at this delightful spot in the enjoyment of the forest sports.



THE LINN OF QUOICH.

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ABOUT a couple of miles below Mar Lodge is the Linn of Quoich. It is one of those powerful streams that tumble down from the Cairngorum mountains, and the cataract is formed by a succession of precipitous ledges. The schist rock is perforated in many places by the whirling waters into deep circular holes, from the appearance of which it has received its name—Quoich or Quaich—signifying a drinking cup. The beautiful clearness of the waters of this stream is noticeable, and causes the pools on the river to look deceitfully shallow, from the pebbles being so distinctly seen even at a depth of 10 or 12 feet.

“ Many a burn, in unknown corries,
Down dark linns the white foam flings,
Fringed with ruddy-berried rowans,
Fed from everlasting springs.”



THE LINN OF DEE.

THE LINN OF DEE.

THE LINN OF DEE is seven miles from Braemar, and three beyond Corrymulzie. It is not the height of the Fall, but the contraction of the stream, that is the object of interest.

The water has worn for itself a narrow passage through the rock. When it is not swollen, there is sometimes a rush of very clear water through a narrow aperture, then a dark pool of considerable depth.

In some of these pools, when the water rushes into them with great violence, the ascending air-bells give it the appearance of effervescing. The visitor may descend to the river's edge, and look upon the furious mass of waters crushed together by its stone walls, and raving in its fury ; but it is scarcely possible to resist the fear that the wild element may leap from its prison and overwhelm those gazing on its agony.



THE COLONEL'S BED.

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BEYOND the Falls of Corrymulzie is Inverey, where a path strikes off on the left to the Colonel's Bed—a low cavern raised a few feet above the surface of the deep still water, the rocks on both sides rising perpendicularly to a considerable height. The tradition is that, in feudal times, one of the Farquharson's of Inverey, being pursued by a party of the Gordons of Abergeldie, concealed himself in this cavern for several weeks, making it his abode both night and day. It used to be as difficult for visitors to descend to this cave as it was for the faithful retainer who nightly conveyed provisions to his master, but by the formation of a neat footpath and granite steps the access is now rendered easy.



GLEN EY.

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IN the midst of a vast trackless waste in the Forest of
Mar—

“ Where hills, and vales, and forests wild,
And earth and water seem to strive,”

lies the valley of Glen Ey. It comprises part of the hunting ground of the Earl of Fife, and abounds with game of every description wild as their mountain home. This, however, to a good sportsman, is the best recommendation, who

“ Seizes his gun, and, with a steady eye,
O’ertakes the sounding pinions ; and again
Immediate brings them from the towering wing
Dead to the ground, or drives them wide dispersed,
Wounded and wheeling various down the wind.”

The subject of our view is the lower part of the Glen, as seen from the Colonel’s Cave, and only about one and a-half miles from the ancient Castle of Inverey, which belonged to the Farquharson Ketterans, who lived by plunder, as celebrated in the song of the “ Baron of Brackley.”

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